




theatreworks
presents

SHE AIN'T HEAVY, SHE'S REACHING INTO SPACE

Conceived and performed by
Eng Kai Er and Faye Lim

28-29 July 2016
Thursday and Friday
8pm

72-13



SHE AIN'T HEAVY, SHE'S REACHING INTO SPACE

The title of our show alludes to a way dancers make themselves lighter when they are being carried by their partners. Instead of letting all their weight sink into their partners, they reach out with their extremities to spread their weight around. Of course, there is also a reference to the popular song by The Hollies. In this project, we have collaborated very closely, sharing our weight in literal, but more often metaphorical, ways. The intense discussions we have been through - at times sombre, at times humorous - have shaped what we will be presenting tonight. Through this performance, we are reaching into your space, sharing the weight of our collaboration with you. The project did not start out being about ourselves and our collaboration. Perhaps, due to the nature of collaborating closely, we each had to reflect on our own positions constantly, in order to construct truthful and respectful responses to the other party. Perhaps the constant reflection eventually caused the project to take on the themes it did - collaboration, relationship, trust.

We invite you to imagine yourselves constructing truthful and respectful responses to us. You might not be sharing those responses with us, but we hope you find someone to share them with.

Kai and Faye

July 2016

The presentation of *She Ain't Heavy, She's Reaching Into Space* is part of TheatreWorks' long established belief in talent spotting and the development and nurturing of Singapore artists. It is also part of TheatreWorks' aim to present innovative contemporary experiences and artistic expressions that offer Singapore audiences alternatives. Its home, 72-13 is an incubator for artistic experiments by both artists and creatives, while being a consistent conduit for dialogues between disciplines and cultures.

Visit our blog at <https://sheaintheavy2016.wordpress.com> to find out more about our creatives involved in *She Ain't Heavy, She's Reaching Into Space*.

Q&A WITH KAI AND FAYE

Faye: Kai, have you seen anything like our show?

Kai: I don't think so. Our show reminds me of when people have a conversational style on stage. I've seen people do conversation-style talking on stage, in more scripted or less scripted ways. There's a feeling of authenticity when that happens. But in our show, our conversations are so improvised and we play off each other so much, it's almost like improvised theatre, except we're not playing any characters and we don't have an imagined setting. The setting is here and the characters are us. It's basically like a real conversation presented as a performance. And then, beyond the conversations we have non-improvised (or less-improvised) performance sections that we have prepared, which then remind me of other things. One of the sections reminds me of Monty Python mixed with kids' shows, and the other section reminds me of contemporary experimental dance. I guess I've seen things that some parts of our show resemble. But I don't think I've seen anything that resembles our overall show.

F: What else happens in the show?

K: Sometimes awkward silences, sometimes I lose control of my voice when I sing high parts in one of the "musicals." Sometimes I get into a flow that feels really good, especially when I feel that I am connected with you.

K: Faye, what do you hope audiences experience?

F: Every night, as part of the performance, you and I engage in unscripted dialogue that gets into very personal territory. I'd like the audience members to have experienced a raw and heartfelt exchange between 2 people who are trying to push through their differences and learn to work together. The differences cut across working styles, artistic beliefs, attention spans, communication patterns, appetites for conflict, etc. It's a situation that could be familiar to audiences in various facets of their lives. I also hope they laugh at something in the performance, anything!

K: What did you learn from this project?

F: What did YOU learn? Ok, me first. I learnt that taking things personally and stating the obvious can enhance performance and art-making. Well, they can be useful skills in life and communication too, though they are often described as negative traits. I've observed you doing both of these things well and in a way that serves you rather than hinders you.

K: I learnt, or rather I discovered together with you, a structure for working together that I enjoy very much. I like that we always had some division of labour - for example if you're in charge of one rehearsal, I'm in charge of the next. And then, if you're writing one "musical," I'm writing another "musical." For the interviews we've done (such as this one), if you answer one question, I answer the next! We do make most of the decisions jointly, but we also have a structure that celebrates our individual creative freedoms. I find that it allows us to really see and appreciate each other more. Maybe I can transpose this working method to future collaborations.

Credits

Conceived and performed by Eng Kai Er and Faye Lim
Costume Designer: Chun Kai Qun
Music Arrangement: Tze Toh
Production Manager: Natalie Lim
Lighting Coordinator/Operator: Suen Kok Khuen
Sound Operator: Hakeem Bin Kasban
Technical team: Gan Zhiting, Huang Xiangbin, Nor Alfian
Bin Nor Anuar, Ignatius Tan Yi Zheng, Merissa Tang Ying
Hua
Stage Assistant: Klarissa Schmitt
Producer: Tay Tong
Ticketing: Ong Soo Mei
Publicity: Mervyn Quek
Engagement: Ahmad Ezzat Alkaff, Cheo Zi Yan and
Klarissa Schmitt
Front-of-House: Charmaine Cham, Kerrine Goh, Nur
Shahirah

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Not many people know that the term 'Gala' in old French means 'enjoyment'. In this quirky and humorous take on dance, French choreographer Jérôme Bel returns to Singapore to work with an entirely local cast comprised of professional and non-professional performers. Featuring a mixed bag of people with different abilities, body shapes and personalities, all united by

their love for the performing arts, Bel takes dance beyond just movement and choreography. GALA allows each performer to express their unique persona, and also lead the entire company in a display of passion and vitality. Join them and witness how the performing arts can empower seemingly ordinary individuals to become a star in their own right.

A TheatreWorks Production GALA

by Jérôme Bel
6-8 October 2016
Victoria Theatre

Tickets, from \$22
on sale now at SISTIC!
Visit www.sistic.com.sg
or call 6348-5555